

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00868 070949Z

21

ACTION EA-10

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H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 070655Z MAY 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3705

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMZVBASSY SINGAPORE 15

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 868

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US CH XC

SUBJECT: CHIAO KUAN-HUA DISCUSSES PRC SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTION

REF: PEKING 844 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON THE DAY SAIGON FELL, PRC FOREIGN
MINISTER CHIAO REPEATED CHINA'S DETERMINATION TO
SUPPORT REVOLUTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION
BUT DENIED THAT IT WAS IN CHINA'S POWER TO
EXPORT REVOLUTION. HE IMPLIED CHINESE EXPECTATION
THAT THE U.S. WOULD RETAIN INFLUENCE IN OTHER SOUTHEAST
ASIAN COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 PEKING 00868 070949Z

1. DURING HIS APRIL 30 MEETING WITH VISITING BRITISH JOURNALISTS (REFTEL) CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA EXPOUNDED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE QUESTION OF CHINESE SUPPORT FOR INSURGENCIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. CHIAO WAS PRODDED BY GENERAL QUESTIONS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA POST-VIETNAM AND A POINTED QUESTION ON HOW CHINA COULD SUPPORT INSURGENTS IN A COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PLEDGING NON-INTERFERENCE. THE FOLLOWING IS BASED ON RECOLLECTIONS OF TWO OF THE PEKING-BASED CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT.

2. AFTER REJECTING THE WESTERN DOMINO THEORY AS "OVER-SIMPLIFIED", CHIAO SAID THERE WAS A GENERAL TENDENCY OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE AND REUNIFICATION. HE SAID THE PEOPLE HAD TO MAKE THEIR OWN REVOLUTIONS AS IN CHINA WHERE THE COMMUNISTS HAD RELIED ON THEMSELVES TO MAKE REVOLUTION. IN A COUNTRY LIKE GREAT BRITAIN WHERE THE PEOPLE DO NOT WANT REVOLUTION, CHIAO SAW NO CHANCE OF ONE AT PRESENT.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUED THAT AS A COMMUNIST COUNTRY, CHINA COULD NOT BUT SUPPORT REVOLUTION BUT IT WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO EXPORT IT. THE LATTER WAS IMPOSSIBLE. HE LATER REPEATED THE "SUPPORT, BUT NOT EXPORT" FORMULATION TO IMPRESS HIS LISTENERS WITH THE DISTINCTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, ACCORDING TO CHIAO, THE MASSIVE INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN TROOPS SUCH AS THE U.S. ATTEMPTED IN VIETNAM WAS "AGGRESSION" AND FAR EXCEEDED PROPER "SUPPORT" OR "INFLUENCE". HE EMPHASIZED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "SUPPORT" OR "INFLUENCE" AND "AGGRESSION", ADDING THAT THE LATTER IN FACT ENCOURAGED REVOLUTION AND HAD SPEEDED UP THE CHANGES IN INDOCHINA.

4. THROUGHOUT THIS PORTION OF THE DISCUSSION CHIAO SEEMED TO BE GROPING FOR AN EXPLANATION OF CHINESE POLICY WHICH WOULD IMPRESS HIS LISTENERS. HIS COMMENTS BROKE NO NEW GROUND, BUT HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR INSURGENCIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD CONTINUE AND IF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FELT THAT WAS THEIR PROBLEM. HE IMPLIED THAT THE PRC

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PEKING 00868 070949Z

EXPECTED THE UNITED STATES TO GIVE SUPPORT TO AND RETAIN INFLUENCE WITH THE NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS OF THE REGION AND THIS KIND OF OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR THE INEVITABLE CLASH BETWEEN THE BOURGEOIS GOVERNMENTS AND THE COMMUNISTS WAS PROPER. INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN TROOPS BY EITHER SIDE, HOWEVER, WAS "AGGRESSION" IN THE CHINESE VIEW.

5. COMMENT: CHIAO'S COMMENTS WOULD SEEM TO OFFER

PRECIOUS LITTLE COMFORT TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN GOVERNMENTS
WHO HOPED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING WOULD INDUCE
THE PRC TO CEASE SUPPORTING LOCAL INSURGENTS.

6. REFTTEL BEING REPEATED ASEAN CAPITALS, RANGOON, AND
VIENTIANE.
BUSH

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